This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 53 (canceled)

54. (new) An isolated nucleic acid comprising an avian ovomucoid gene expression controlling region comprising at least one of a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26 or its complement.

55. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 54 wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 99% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

56. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 54 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

57. (new) A recombinant DNA molecule comprising an isolated avian ovomucoid gene expression controlling region at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26 operably linked to a nucleic acid insert encoding a polypeptide.

58. (presently amended) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 wherein the gene expression ~~control~~ controlling region is at least 99% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

59. (presently amended) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 wherein the gene expression ~~control~~ controlling region comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

60. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 comprising a polyadenylation signal sequence.

61. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 60 wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence is an SV40 virus polyadenylation sequence.

62. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 wherein the nucleic acid insert encoding a polypeptide comprises codons optimized for protein expression in an avian.

63. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 wherein the nucleic acid insert encodes an interferon α2b polypeptide.

64. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 further comprising an origin of replication selected from the group consisting of a bacterial origin of replication and a viral origin of replication.

65. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 wherein the recombinant DNA molecule is a plasmid.

66. (new) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 57 wherein the recombinant DNA molecule is a virus.

67. (new) An expression vector that integrates into a host cell comprising an avian ovomucoid gene expression controlling region comprising a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26 operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide wherein the gene expression controlling region directs production of a transcript.

68. (new) The expression vector of Claim 67 wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 99% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

69. (new) The expression vector of Claim 67 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

70. (new) The expression vector of Claim 67 comprising a coding sequence for a polyadenylation signal sequence.

71. (new) The expression vector of Claim 70 wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence is an SV40 virus polyadenylation signal sequence.

72. (new) The expression vector of Claim 67 wherein the nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprises codons optimized for protein expression in an avian.

73. (new) The expression vector of Claim 67 wherein the nucleic acid encodes an interferon α2b polypeptide.

74. (new) The expression vector of Claim 67 wherein the expression vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid and a virus.

75. (new) An isolated eukaryotic cell transformed with the expression vector of Claim 67 or a progeny of the cell wherein the cell or progeny thereof is a cultured cell expressing a heterologous polypeptide.

76. (new) The isolated eukaryotic cell of Claim 75 wherein the cell is an avian cell.

77. (new) The isolated eukaryotic cell of Claim 75 wherein the cell is a chicken cell.

78. (new) The isolated eukaryotic cell of Claim 75 wherein the cell is a chicken oviduct cell.

79. (new) The isolated eukaryotic cell of Claim 75 wherein the cell is a quail oviduct cell.

80. (new) The isolated eukaryotic cell of Claim 75 wherein the nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprises codons optimized for protein expression in an avian.

81. (new) The isolated eukaryotic cell of Claim 75 wherein the nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide encodes an interferon α2b polypeptide.

82. (new) A method of expressing a heterologous polypeptide in a host cell comprising:

transfecting a eukaryotic cell with a recombinant DNA molecule comprising an avian ovomucoid gene expression controlling region comprising a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26 operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide thereby making a transfected cell and

culturing the transfected cell in a medium suitable for expression of a heterologous polypeptide under the control of an avian ovomucoid gene expression controlling region encoded by the recombinant DNA molecule,

thereby expressing a heterologous polypeptide in a host cell.

83. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 99% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

84. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

85. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the eukaryotic cell is isolated from an avian.

86. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the eukaryotic cell is isolated from a chicken.

87. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the eukaryotic cell is a chicken oviduct cell.

88. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the eukaryotic cell is a quail oviduct cell.

89. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprises codons optimized for protein expression in an avian.

90. (new) The method of Claim 82 wherein the nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide encodes an interferon α2b polypeptide.